

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps.

THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 06

Feb. 25, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Little Shop of Horrors

The Aviano Community Theater group performs this musical 7 p.m. tonight at the Aviano High School multi-purpose room. They also perform 2 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. Mar. 4 and 5, and 2 p.m. March 6. Tickets cost \$5 for students and lower-enlisted, and \$8 for adults.

Office closure

The Civilian Personnel Office closes 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday for an official function.

Tire inspections

Aviano drivers can get their vehicles' tires inspected from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays in Hangar 6.

USAFE Idol

Team Aviano is invited to attend the local USAFE Idol competition 7 p.m. Saturday at the Aviano Community Center. The winner of this competition will go on to compete at Ramstein Air Base April 23. The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band, Touch 'N Go, will accompany each act.



Airman 1st Class Desiree Hayden

You've got mail

Airman 1st Class Chris Rowlen, 31st Communications Squadron, puts mail into a box at the Aviano Post Office Feb. 15. The flightline post office is responsible for delivering up to 2,600 pieces of mail a day, while the post office annex handles up to 1,000 packages.

Winter weather

Record snowfall blankets Aviano

Team Aviano woke to find a winter wonderland Tuesday after a record-breaking snowfall blanketed the area, causing the base to shut down for the day.

More than five inches accumulated in some areas. Due to slick, uncleared streets and highways, 31st Fighter Wing leaders declared Tuesday a snow day and required only mission-essential personnel to report to work.

According to the 31st Operations Support Squadron Weather Operations flight, this was the first time in recorded history that the area received so much snow during the month of February.

The last time so much snow accumulated was in December 2001, with five inches. In January 2003, about two inches fell at one point. In fact, there were only 20 occurrences of two-inches accumulation since 1956. (31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Flu season: It's still the season and active duty members must get their flu shot by visiting the Immunizations Clinic in Area One.



Tax information

Deployed servicemembers in combat areas who are receiving federal tax exemptions may now apply for certain tax credit options.

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SECAF at fault

The Department of Defense Inspector General finds fault with former Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche, for misuse of government e-mail.

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Air Force week

First Lady Laura Bush visited troops and families, humanitarian aid was given to those in Afghanistan -- just another busy week in the U.S. Air Force.

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Department of Defense **Secretary Rumsfeld speaks at Mosul award ceremony**



(Editor's note: The following statements were made by the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld during a visit to Iraq Feb. 11.)

Think of how the Iraqi people must have felt on election day. They were told if they voted they'd be killed. You vote, you die. The election workers were told they'd be killed.

The Iraqi security forces were warned not to show up. It must have taken a great deal of courage to go out. They didn't know what their neighbors were thinking, whether their neighbors would go out, how many of them there would be. Some of them, I'm told, walked out some place near the voting place, didn't go in. Milled around for a while to see what was going to happen.

At some moment, one of them went in, and the rest followed. They ended up learning something enormously important. They learned that their neighbors down the street had the same hopes, the same aspirations that they did.

So they found courage. Indeed, millions of people found courage. It must have given them enormous confidence and encouragement.

And it had to be a stunning blow to the extremists, if you think about it. They had issued statements declaring war against democracy, opposing the elections, telling people they should not vote. Today they have to know that their advice, their threats were overwhelmingly rejected by millions of Iraqi people.

This victory for liberty rightly belongs to the brave Iraqi people, let there be no doubt, but it also belongs to the coalition and the leaders across the world who chose to do what was right as opposed to what was temporarily popular.

And it belongs to the American people who were confident and steadfast and supportive — all of you.

Let there be no doubt, the election's success belongs to the United States Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines.

In short, it belongs quite simply to each one of you — And I should add, it also belongs to your loved ones who sacrifice as well as you do.

I know that during the time you've been, here there have been, had to have been a very high pace. Although there must have been moments when you wondered whether it was worth the effort. I suspect there were also times when you wondered if the people you were trying to help were really with you.

Well, when the time came they did just that. They passed the signs telling them not to vote and they went ahead and voted, and newly empowered Iraqis today are forming a government. They're deciding who should be in which posts. They're debating. They're discussing all the things that normal politics and democracy require them to

do. They're engaging, in short, in the encouraging discourse of democracy.

The security forces that our military has helped train and equip I'm told stood their posts even though there was violence and bombs nearby. Some gave their lives to protect others from suicide bombings.

It was Thomas Jefferson who once said that we are not to expect to be transported from despotism to liberty on a featherbed. It's always been tough. It is not easy. It wasn't easy for our country, it wasn't easy for Germany or Japan, South Korea, and it wasn't easy for Afghanistan. It won't be easy here, but it can be done and country after country have shown that it can be done.

So the task ahead for us is to continue to help the Iraqi security forces to get on the job. That will take some time. Each of those trainees have different experiences and capabilities. Some have met success in helping to secure and defend Iraq against extremists in Fallujah and elsewhere.

Others have never before been a part of an Army or a police unit so it's brand new for them. Many should not be expected to behave and operate as if they were battle-hardened veterans. They aren't. But one day soon they will be. They have to be because it is the Iraqis that are going to have to, over time, defeat the insurgency. It's their country, it's their responsibility, and they're the ones that have that obligation.

They're developing confidence and skill, there's no question about it, and once they have that confidence and that capacity and capability our forces, coalition forces, will be able to go home and go home with the honor that you will have earned.

And I should add, go home with the gratitude of a grateful nation.

When you look back at this time in your life I believe that one day you'll see very clearly the history you've made.

Early chapters will tell of hardships, of difficulties, of losses, but the final chapters will record true great achievements.

What's happening in Afghanistan and in Iraq, what has taken place in Ukraine and in the West Bank is part of the march of freedom. So I thank each of you for being here, for volunteering, for your service. I join in paying tribute to all of those who have fallen or been wounded in this struggle.

We're proud of them, we're grateful to them, we honor them. They deserve not merely our gratitude, but our commitment to their unfinished work.

So may God bless each of you in your difficult work ahead, and may God bless our wonderful country.

Tax information: *Troops in combat areas get credit*

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Servicemembers receiving federal tax exemptions for some or all of their military pay may now elect to apply for certain tax credit options, the chief of the Armed Forces Tax Council said in Washington D.C., Feb. 17.

Troops deployed to combat zones can now apply for tax refunds based on earned income tax credits, as well as additional child tax credits, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, the council's executive director.

The council monitors and coordinates tax issues involving active-duty and reserve-component servicemembers.

The earned income credit, Colonel Fenton said, primarily involves lower-income filers with children. The additional child tax credit, she said, may provide refunds for children younger than age 17.

Servicemembers who want to apply for the credit refunds are required to fill out and file a federal tax return, she said.

Enlisted troops serving in combat areas already have all of their military pay excluded from federal taxes, Colonel Fenton said, while officers in combat zones can exclude as much as \$6,529 of their monthly pay.

Troops deployed to noncombat overseas areas have until June 15 to file their income taxes, she said.

Troops serving in a combat zone, the colonel said, have up to 180 days to file



File photo

Deployed servicemembers in combat areas can now elect to apply for certain tax options, according to the chief of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

their taxes after departing the area.

"Someone who is in Iraq right now," she said, "would not have to file their 2004 tax return until they leave Iraq."

However, some overseas servicemembers would want to file early, Colonel Fenton said, because they may be due a refund.

Military-operated tax centers at stateside and overseas locales, she said, can provide servicemembers with tax filing assistance.

And, married servicemembers deployed to combat and noncombat overseas locales can opt to have spouses file tax returns, she said, provided there is an applicable power of attorney.

College grants offered to Airmen's families

Air Force Aid Society officials said they are offering as many as 4,500 college education grants to Air Force family members through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

Applications for the \$1,500 need-based grants must be received by March 11.

The program is open to dependent children of Airmen on active duty, in the Guard or Reserve performing full-time active duty, retired or deceased. Spouses of active duty and deceased Airmen are also eligible. Applicants must be enrolled as fulltime undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year, and they are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

Selection is heavily based on cost of attendance, family income and the number of eligible applicants competing. A final need assessment will be made by an independent agency.

Students can find an application and review full eligibility requirements, procedures and application instructions on the society's Web site at www.afas.org. They also can call (800) 429-9475 for an application brochure.

The program averages a 50 percent-plus selection rate, officials said. (Air Force News Service)

Aviano Family Support Center: People can learn about this community resource by visiting its "Info Bank" at www.avianofsc.org.

Tickets available for USAFE's Annual Awards Banquet

Award-winning Airmen recognized during event

Tickets for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Annual Awards Banquet are available for purchase March 1.

The USAFE Annual Awards Banquet will be 6:30 p.m. April 8 at the Ramstein Air Base Officers' Club.

Price of the tickets for the meat option is \$24 for club members and \$27 for non-members.

Ticket prices for the vegetarian option are \$16.55 for club members and \$19.55 for non-members.

The USAFE Annual Awards Banquet honors the command's outstanding Airmen and civilians competing in the categories of Airmen, Noncommissioned Officer, Senior NCO, Company Grade Officer, First Sergeant of the Year

and Civilian - Categories I and II. USAFE leaders will announce the winners from each category during the event.

The deadline for ticket purchase is March 30 and can be purchased from wing command chief master sergeants or organization first sergeants.

Guest speaker for the evening will be former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Ralston.

Both civilians and military members of all ranks are welcome to attend.

For more information, Aviano people should contact their unit first sergeant or Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Hutton, 31st Fighter Wing command chief master sergeant. (USAFE News Service)



Airman 1st Class Desiree Hayden

Oil check

Staff Sgt. Russell Gee, a 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron Airman, checks the oil level before repairing a 20-ton wrecker Feb. 11 here. Vehicle operations provide the base with government vehicle service, and is responsible for issuing more than 2,000 privately-owned vehicle licenses each year.

RESCON CORNER

DUIs

Week	0
28 days	0

RESCON Alpha

Congratulations to Team Aviano for going another week without a drunk driving incident. We had not a single incident over the four-day weekend, which says a lot about us taking care of each other. We are well on our way to 31-days and a down day, as well as going back to Rescon Normal.

As a reminder, please make plans before heading out. Use your Wingman or Airman Against Drunk Driving. Have a designated driver. There is no excuse to drunk driving.

Marriage information: The Aviano Family Support Center assists people with filing paperwork and arranging appointments. Call Ext. 5407.

Sortie Board

Hours Sorties

31st FW

Goal **851.4** **554**

Ahead or Behind **109.2** **-25**

510th FS

Goal **389** **271**

Ahead or Behind **60.7** **34**

555th FS

Goal **462.4** **283**

Ahead or Behind **48.5** **-59**

Medals updated in personnel system

Air Force officials have completed a batch update to currently reflect award of the Korean Defense Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism-Expeditionary Medal in the military personnel data system.

Air Force Personnel Center officials at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, recently completed a mass decorations update for more than 69,000 active-duty Airmen who were permanently assigned to Korea, earning the Korean medal. An additional 114,000 updates for the expeditionary medal were completed for active-duty Airmen deployed to Southwest Asia supporting Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom since Sept. 11, 2001.

Airmen eligible to wear either medal can view their decoration history in virtual military personnel flight to verify the update was successful.

They can contact their commander's support staff if they qualified for either decoration, but their decoration history was not updated.

If the entitlement is verified, support staff Airmen will fax the appropriate letter to the AFPC contact center for update.

Each medal will only be awarded once, regardless of how many times an individual returns to serve in the respective theater, officials said. There are no service stars or other devices authorized; however, battle stars may be authorized with the GWOT for people who engaged in actual combat. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for battle stars.

The medals initially will be issued by local MPFs as they become available and are also available through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

For more information on criteria for issue and wear of each medal, visit: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/Recently%20approved%20awards.htm, or call the AFPC contact center at (800) 616-3775. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

DOD IG finds fault with former SECAF

The former secretary of the Air Force was found recently to have committed two technical violations of the Joint Ethics Regulation.

The findings are the result of an investigation by the Department of Defense's Office of the Inspector General and were published in a report Jan. 27.

In May 2003, then Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche used his government-issued hand-held communications device to send an e-mail to a non-government individual. That individual was a former co-worker at Northrop Grumman where Dr. Roche previously worked. In the e-mail, Dr. Roche provided a character reference for the brother of a personal friend. The brother was seeking employment at Northrop Grumman. The e-mail in itself was not a violation.

However, due to pre-set configuration of the hand-held device, Dr. Roche's e-mail automatically included a banner at the bottom with the signature element reflecting his office: "Dr. James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force."

Under Section 2635.702(b) of the JER, titled "Appearance of Governmental Sanction," Department of Defense employees are prohibited from using their official title in a manner that reasonably could be construed to imply that his or her agency endorses his personal action. An example under that provision of the JER prohibits using official letterhead or one's official title in a letter when making job recommendations for personal



File photo

Former Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche served in his position from 2001 to January 2005.

friends where the association is unrelated to the government employee's official position and the recommendation is not for a federal job. Arguing by analogy to these rules, the report concluded Dr. Roche violated the regulation by sending the e-mail and including his official signature element.

Regarding the second finding, there is no specific regulation saying DOD employees cannot make a job recommendation using government e-mail. However, under Section 2-301 of the JER, titled "Use of Federal Government Resources," government employees are permitted limited use of government communications resources for

personal use, unless such use violates another regulation.

According to the report, when Dr. Roche unknowingly violated the first regulation by forwarding the e-mail with his official title, he therefore technically violated the second regulation as well.

In responding to the preliminary IG findings, Dr. Roche stated that he fully understood and respected that public office is a public trust. He also agreed that employees should be careful to avoid giving the appearance of government endorsement where it is inappropriate to do so.

He went on to argue in the detailed response that, under the circumstances surrounding the e-mail to his personal friend, he believed there was absolutely no risk of any such implication.

Dr. Roche also urged that more specific guidance be provided to government employees should IG officials stand by their initial application of the JER.

Otherwise, he added, the inadequate guidance pertaining to new technologies not originally contemplated by the JER, such as e-mail, would continue to cause problems for government workers.

Lastly, in their Jan. 27 letter to Dr. Roche, IG officials wrote that while the secretary had violated two sections of the ethics regulation, they found insufficient evidence to suggest his e-mail had influenced an assessment of the tanker lease proposal by the Office of Management and Budget.

Vigileer deadlines: People must send information to vigileer@aviano.af.mil by 5 p.m. Thursdays the week prior to the desired date of publication.

Aviano to be inspected on environmental compliance

Oil rags forming mountains in the trash need to be disposed properly and immediately, along with other environmental infractions here, in preparation for an upcoming inspection, said an Aviano official.

"A group of assessors will provide a snapshot in time of how well Aviano is complying with all of its environmental programs," said Lonnie Duke, 31st Civil Engineer environmental flight, referring to the upcoming Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program.

According to Air Force Instruction 32-7045, the inspection is done every three years by a U.S. Air Forces in Europe team, while local teams evaluate all the programs each year. An ECAMP inspection begins next week.

"The assessors will interview workers who manage, work in or whose job is influenced by these environmental programs. They look closely at records to ensure the correct procedures are being followed," said Mr. Duke.

The inspection involves 13 criteria to include wastewater, hazardous waste, fuel storage tanks, noise, pollution prevention, restoration, pesticides and hazardous material. Things such as properly disposing oily rags should be obvious, said Mr. Duke.

"Some of the findings repeated each year are simple things like housekeeping," he said.

"The inspectors will look in mechanical rooms and storage

areas that have been traditionally used to hide things, like leftover material from a Combat Proud project," he said.

Other parts of the inspection include reviewing work centers' material safety data sheet, which is basically a checklist with instructions for disposing certain items or outlining specific environmental protection procedures.

"Assessors [will ask if] they are current. Does the work center have them in Italian? Is there an MSDS for every item of hazardous material on hand? Is there an authorization form for every chemical in the work place, and are the chemicals approved for safety, bioenvironmental and environmental?" said Mr. Duke.

Form 55s and training records may also be scrutinized, as well as hazardous waste accumulation point labels and log books.

Mr. Duke said that while people may have heard or seen the ECAMP acronym before, it's important for everyone to understand it's purpose -- to make sure Team Aviano is doing all it can to protect the environment.

"Consider ECAMP a unit compliance inspection for environmental issues. This external look may result in findings which are tracked until corrected. We have only a few months to prepare," he said. For more information about ECAMP or ways to get ready for the inspection, call the 31st CES environmental flight at Ext. 5393. (31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

New terminal hours

Beginning March 1, the Aviano Passenger Terminal's hours change to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to noon weekends. Early check-in for the Patriot Express will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the day prior to the mission. Call Ext. 7680 for more information.

Safety announcement

A small, improvised device exploded in Treviso Jan. 26 when a child kicked a toy from a hollow chocolate egg candy. No one was hurt, but it is likely the work of the Italian Unabomber. While he does not appear to be targeting Americans, the 31st Fighter Wing Intelligence Antiterrorism force protection unit recommends people refrain from picking up or touching even innocent-looking objects in public places. Be cautious when purchasing Italian candy designed for children.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Aviano Alcoholics Anonymous meets 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in Area One Bldg. 168 behind the child development center. For more information about AA, or alcohol abuse, call Ext. 5321.

Deployment briefing

Those deploying soon can attend a pre-deployment briefing 9 a.m. Wednesdays except for holidays, down days and base exercises at the Aviano Family Support Center. Call Ext. 5407 to sign up.

Oil change

Spouses of servicemembers deployed more than 30 days can receive a free oil change for the primary vehicle. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Safe Highway

Aviano drivers can use the Safe Highway program to report fellow Americans who drive in an unsafe manner by visiting the Aviano Intranet Safe Highway link. The program was created to assist in the reduction of both minor and major traffic accidents here. Reports must be as specific as possible, to include color, make and model of a vehicle, driver and



Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

On guard in Uzbekistan

Airman 1st Class Steven Nicholas and Senior Airman Jeremy Brown check the perimeter of the flightline at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base during a security forces training exercise Feb. 18. They are security forces Airmen assigned to the 416th Expeditionary Mission Support Squadron. They are deployed from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

passenger descriptions, date, location and time of the incident.

Marriage information

The Aviano Family Support Center assists people with filing their marriage paperwork and arranging downtown appointments. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

TDY scheduling

Airmen can schedule official travel as soon as they have valid TDY dates. People do not need orders to call the Aviano Traffic Management Office to begin the scheduling process. For more information, call TMO at Ext. 5646.

Lost and found

The 31st Security Forces Squadron Investigations Section is the base point of contact for lost and found property. Found property can be turned in to the Law Enforcement desk in Bldg. 1019 on the Flightline. Inquiries about lost property should be directed to the agency where the property was lost before calling Ext. 5401 or 0434-66-5401.

Personal effects

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of 2nd Lt. Donyal V. Brooks should contact Summary Court Officer, Maj. Rod A. Cameron at Ext. 7567.

GTC online payments

Because of an apparent scam, ensure Government Travel card payments are sent to the Bank of America on www.myeasy.com and not www.myeasypay.com.

Survivor benefit plan

Enrolling in the Survivor Benefit Plan prior to retiring will ensure families have guaranteed income after a servicemember's death. Additional details are available by calling Aviano's SBP counselor, Denise Larmer, at Ext. 4699.

Wingman Wednesdays

Wingmen with their cards can receive the following benefits Wednesdays around the base:

- Bowling for the price of one and free shoes at the Aviano Bowling Center
- Free golf cart at the Aviano

Golf Course

- 25 cent wings at the La Bella Vista Club
- Wingmen workout 4 to 5 p.m. at the Dragon Fitness Center
- Two for one price on ski and snowboard equipment at Outdoor Recreation
- Five percent off any day tour signed for on Wednesdays.

Class registration

Term 4 registration for the University of Maryland University College starts March 14 for active duty and March 16 for civilians. Term 4 Distance Education registration is currently ongoing. Call Ext. 5365 or visit www.ed.umuc.edu for more information.

Birth certificates

The Sacile City Hall has distributed the complimentary Italian nonofficial, memento birth certificates for all births up to January 2005. Due to the size of the documents, they cannot be mailed. Families can pick them up at the Sacile hospital, second floor. The ward is open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

The Air Force in photos

Presidential visits, humanitarian missions, exercises and air power -- just another work week in the U.S. Air Force.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pomeroy

First lady visit

First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush, addresses servicemembers and families at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Tuesday. Mrs. Bush also visited wounded soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center during her visit to Germany.



Staff Sgt. Justin Jacobs

On the road

A Chevrolet Camaro Z-28 chases a U-2 Dragon Lady down the runway in Southwest Asia. Because of visibility limitations when on the ground, U-2 pilots rely on the driver in the car to provide information during takeoffs and landings.

Remembrance

Senior Airman David Turner rings a bell during a one-minute "final alarm" ceremony at a forward-deployed location Feb. 16 honoring Staff Sgt. Ray Rangel, who died while attempting to rescue two Soldiers after their Humvee overturned in a canal in Iraq.



Senior Master Sgt. John Snow



Capt. Catie Hague



Kevin J. Tosh

On the go

A C-17 Globemaster III flies through the sky over McChord Air Force Base, Wash., while participating in Operation Wildfire Feb. 8. The operation simulates a mortar and chemical attack at a simulated deployed location. The exercise helps prepare McChord Airmen for counter chemical warfare conflict operations.

(left) Helping others

Staff Sgt. Robert Whitehurst, part of a team delivering humanitarian aid to snowbound villages in Afghanistan, receives a box of supplies being unloaded from a relief truck in the Salang District there. Sergeant Whitehurst is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.



Master Sgt. George F. Jozens

Thunderbirds

The Thunderbird Show Line bursts into action while recovering six jets moments after the team formed up for the first time during the 2005 season.



Senior Airman Mike Meares

Don't look now

Second Lt. Alyson Smith, 96th Air Base Wing, turns away and concentrates on something outside the window of a mobile blood center as she has her blood drawn. The blood center visits Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., twice a week collecting donations supporting the base and area hospitals.

Fly Bys

Vacation location

Aviano travelers can make an appointment with an Information, Tickets and Travel representative to design their next vacation. Call Ext. 5072 for more information.

Travel Web site

Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. Maintained by the U.S. Department of State, the Web site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity, as well as other information for travelers. Call the 31st Fighter Wing Manpower Office at Ext. 7308 with questions about the site or other antiterrorism force protection measures.

Open-air markets

Local Italian villages hold open-air markets one day each week. The following schedule identifies the market day for area villages: Monday - Maniago, Azzano Decimo, Vittorio Veneto, Lignano; Tuesday - Aviano, Casarsa, Codroipo, San Quirino; Wednesday - Pordenone, Budoia, Cordignano, Oderzo, Latisana; Thursday - Roveredo, Fontanafredda, Fiume Veneto, Sacile, Montereale, Portogruaro; Friday - Cordenons, Porcia, San Vito al Tagliamento, Conegliano; Saturday - Pordenone, Spilimbergo, Caorle, Treviso; Sunday - Udine.

ITT bus stop

All tours and trips depart from the Aviano Community Center bus stop in Area One. Actual departure times are specified on the tour receipts. To help ensure a prompt departure, Arrive 15 to 20 minutes early, for scheduled trips because the bus driver cannot wait. The community center is open from 30 minutes up to one hour prior to departure for restroom facility use.



Courtesy photo

Name this vacation location

This forest is located in a wooded mountain region in southwest Germany in the Bundesland of Baden-Württemberg along the Rhine River and the French border. The forest is divided into three sections: Northern, southern, and middle. The highest peak in the forest is the Feldberg with an elevation of 1,493 meters (4,898 feet.) This forest is also known worldwide as the area where the Grimm fairy tales originated. In olden times, witches, gnomes, spirits, and the Krampus were thought to live here. Be the sixth person to send in the attraction's name and location (to include city and street) to vigileer@aviano.af.mil, and win a prize! Congratulations to Master Sgt. Dennis McClain, Aviano ALS commandant, for correctly identifying last week's "Vacation Location" as the Tuomiokirkko, the Lutheran Cathedral at Unioninkatu 29, Helsinki, Finland.

Plan to trip?: ITT passengers must travel with a tourist passport to countries such as: Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania, Russia.



Courtesy photo

Stonehenge, England is home to a prehistoric place of worship and burial.

ITT: Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- March 5 - Pisa and Da Vinci Museums
 - March 5 - Guided Trieste and its castles: Durino and Castello di Miramare
 - March 12 - Wine tasting in Emilia Romagna
 - March 19 - Gardaland season's grand opening
- People may sign up now with only

a 50- percent deposit for a tour.

The ITT escort will ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable for participants.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for the trip. The office also recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking.

The escort will provide general information about the area, as well. For more information about ITT tours, call Ext. 5072 or 5026.



Staff Sgt. Steve Grever

The U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chorale joins David Robinson, a retired San Antonio Spur and a 1987 Naval Academy graduate, to sing the national anthem at the 2005 NBA All-Star Game in Denver Saturday.

Cadets sing at All-Star Game

The National Basketball Association asked the Air Force Academy's Cadet Chorale to sing the national anthem at the NBA All-Star Game in Denver Saturday.

The choir accepted and visited as part of the NBA's salute to the servicemembers of the armed forces.

The cadets were introduced by "The Admiral," David Robinson.

Mr. Robinson is a Naval Academy graduate who served on active duty with the Navy and played for the NBA's San Antonio Spurs from 1989 to 2003.

With the help of Mr. Robinson, the NBA honored the armed forces and more than 300

servicemembers and their families during all-star events which ran Saturday and Sunday.

The game was broadcasted to a global audience, reaching into 214 countries, including a nationwide broadcast on TNT with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service.

The Cadet Chorale is a co-ed choir which has sung for presidents and appeared on television many times.

The choir's most recent nationally televised performance was at Super Bowl XXXIX, when they combined their voices with cadets from three other service academies to perform the national anthem. (*Air Force News Service.*)

Umpires needed: The AYP is looking for baseball and softball umpires, call Randall at 340-325-9781.



Larry McTighe

Rudd ready

Ricky Rudd, holds the Army's No. 1 driver, Joe Nemecheck, at bay during Daytona 500 practice in Florida. Rudd went on to place 24th and Nemecheck placed 13th in the big race, Sunday.

Fly Bys

Pool Shark Shoot-out

The Spot hosts an 8-ball tournament 12 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Winter sports

Snow Rafting, Taxi-Bob and other winter activities are available to Team Aviano. For information on individual and group trips and lessons, call Outdoor Recreation at Ext. 8623.

Batting cages

The 31st Services Squadron plans to re-open the batting cages in mid-March. Team Aviano is invited to make reservations for birthday parties, Aviano Youth Program, squadron teams and group practices. Reservations may be made for any time, with advanced notice. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Volksmarch

The 19th Muflone run (Volksmarch) 5 to 14 Kilometer run is Sunday in Fanna. Participants meet in Roveredo Sq. at Bar Municipio. For more information, call Gloria at Ext. 7404 or 7866 or Sandy at Ext. 7209 or 7006.

Best ball tournament

The Two-Person Best Ball Tournament is March 5 at the Alpine Golf Course. For more information, call Ext. 7386.

March Madness sale

Marlyn's March Madness sale is going on at Outdoor Rec. Receive 15 percent off all ski and snowboard equipment rental all March. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

Cosmic Bowling

Cosmic Bowling is every Friday and Saturday at the Aviano Bowling Center. Cost is \$8 per adult and \$6 for children 17 and under with a Youth Activity card.

Deep sea fishing

Go deep sea fishing in the Adriatic through Aviano Outdoor Recreation. No experience is necessary because the skipper will guide the less experienced. Coffee, lunch and bait and tackle are also included. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

UPCLOSE

and personal with Aviano's best

Staff Sgt. Reginald Surratt was recently given the Chief's Choice Award for his dedicated administrative work in the 31st Medical Squadron. "He has provided outstanding personnel support throughout the group and across the wing," said Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Simpson, who nominated Sergeant Surratt for the award. "He is a future chief in the making." We caught up with the Washington D.C. native, who's married to Isabella and father to Dominique, to find out more.



Q: What was your reaction when you learned you were being given the Chief's Choice award?

A: I was in shock and definitely surprised. I felt honored that the rest of the chiefs - not just our chief - took the time to present me with the award.

Q: Who is your role model?

A: My mother. She never lets the negative or difficult times in life get the best of her. Instead, she draws strength and uses it to drive her to achieve her accomplishments and goals.

Q: If you could meet any person - dead or alive - who would it be?

A: I would like to meet my father, who died when I was six years old. I would like him to see the type of man I've turned out to be. He would be proud.

Q: What was life like in your hometown?

A: Growing up in south east Washington D.C., was definitely challenging.

Q: Why did you enlist in the Air Force?

A: Originally, after Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I wanted to help support the U.S., and figured the best way would be to enlist in the military. My mother wouldn't let me join the Marines, but wanted to support my decision, so we came to an agreement and I joined the Air Force.

Q: That was a good agreement. Why do you enjoy your job so much?

A: People make my job. As a personnelist, I enjoy helping people get the right information the first time and every time. When the men and women of the 31st Medical Group have their needs taken care of, I like to think that they, in turn, take better care of the medical needs of everyone else on Aviano Air Base.

Q: What's a perfect day for you?

A: A perfect day would be when all my customers are happy, taken care of and has no issues or problems.

Q: When do you remember first feeling like you were truly an Airman?

A: When I received my first set of 5-level career development courses.

Q: If you had a mission statement, what would it be?

A: Be true to yourself! A lot of people tend to forget who they are. While in the military and throughout life, we have situations that require us to make adjustments to what we do and how we do it. If you take the time to do something, then take the time to do your best.

Q: Chief Simpson said you are a chief in training. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

A: I see myself at least a senior master sergeant in the Air Force, probably at another U.S. Air Forces in Europe base. (Compiled by Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein, 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Vigileer editor)



Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The **Cornerstone Page** is devoted to those who support: junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The **Cornerstone Page** will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info

We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community. To submit:

Commentaries:

Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer @aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

Kudos: Recognizing those who serve

"Congratulations to Gabriella Cuebas, Morgan Ford, Danielle Cuebas and Katherine Barber. These youth represented Aviano at the 2004 AF Family and Teen Talent Contest. Each participant was awarded 3rd Place in the Preteen 9-12 years category. Congratulations we are very proud of your achievements."

Aviano Youth Programs staff

Congratulations to the 31st Security Forces Squadron for being named U.S. Air Forces in Europe's 2004 outstanding security forces large unit.

Congratulations to the following 31st Communications Squadron members for winning 2004 U.S. Air Forces in Europe awards:

Master Sgt. Kim Rauls - Information Management Senior NCO of the Year.

Senior Airman Jessica Mathias - IM Airman of the Year.

Master Sgt. Joseph Schwartz - Communications-Computer Systems Senior NCO.

Alavaro Obregon - Civilian Technician.